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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

SURVEY OF FOODS PURCHASED FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

The National School Lunch Program has, over the 10 years of its operation under the National School Lunch Act, grown to stature as an important factor in agricultural marketing. To gain more information about the market made by the program, the Food Distribution Division is conducting a series of studies of food expenditures by schools.

The several studies, when all are completed, will be brought together in booklet form to present the information to all who are interested. However, copies of the studies are being presented, as each is completed, in this preliminary form for review by persons particularly interested in them.

The attached report is one of these preliminary copies.

Agriculture-Washington

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

PURCHASES OF FOOD COMMODITIES MADE BY CENTRAL OFFICE
SCHOOL LUNCH DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

This report is one of a series to ascertain the kinds, volumes and dollar values of the foods purchased for the preparation of meals at schools in connection with the National School Lunch Program.

During the 1955-56 school year, the Central Office of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico purchased, primarily from United States sources, over 14 million pounds of food for school feeding programs at a cost of almost \$2,500,000. An additional 8 to 10 million pounds of food, primarily fresh fruits and vegetables, was purchased locally by the School Superintendents ^{a/} and used to supplement those foods bought by the Central Office. The Department of Agriculture, through its several programs, provided the Puerto Rican school system with over 11.7 million pounds of food valued at \$2.8 million.

This food was used in the preparation of 43,360,000 meals which were consumed by a daily average of 241,000 children who obtained their weekday noon meals as part of the School Lunch Program. Virtually all of the meals were provided at no cost to the children.

Menus are uniform for all schools in Puerto Rico and are prepared on the basis of the food commodities available on hand. Fresh fruits and vegetables are purchased locally through the offices of the Superintendent of Schools. A two-months' supply is distributed in July for utilization at the lunchrooms during August and September (first two months of the school year). No distribution is made in August. A one-month's supply is delivered in September for utilization in October and a one-month's supply is delivered every subsequent month until April (last distribution) for utilization in May (last month of the school year). Remaining supplies are recovered from schools and returned to the supplying-warehouse after the close of the school year.

Foods purchased by the Puerto Rican Central Office are shown in Table 1 by food groups, poundage and total cost. In Table 2 are shown the average costs per pound for the food commodities purchased for the school year 1955-56 compared with the average of the prices paid during the four preceding school years.

^{a/} Details of poundage and prices paid for foods purchased by the Superintendents of Schools for use in the School Lunch Program are not available.

Table 1. Foods Purchased by Central Office, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
for Use in School Lunch Program, School Year 1955-56

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Pounds Purchased</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<u>Fruits</u>		
Grapefruit Sections (P.R.)	230,010	29,518
Pineapple, crushed	650,555	97,655
Pineapple, sliced	241,500	39,354
Prunes, dehydrated	429,947	111,855
Total Fruits	1,552,012	278,382
<u>Vegetables</u>		
Beans, soy, dried	359,672	24,756
Beans, stringless	1,415,857	159,184
Carrots, diced	1,400,743	145,487
Corn, whole kernel	1,623,319	225,810
Peas, P.R. Pigeon, cnd.	1,122,390	152,865
Potatoes, P.R., Sweet	382,850	50,529
Spinach	172,490	15,741
Tomatoes, canned	738,570	89,084
Tomato Puree	762,128	99,573
Total Vegetables	7,978,019	963,029
<u>Dairy Products</u>		
Dehydrated skim milk	1,708,484	387,324
Margarine	13,200	2,600
Total Dairy Products	1,721,684	389,924
<u>Fish, Meat, Eggs</u>		
Codfish, canned	204,899	69,086
Sardines	204,390	31,628
Luncheon Meat (Pork)	425,250	151,776
Sausage, Vienna style	531,645	195,808
Eggs, whole, dehydrated	155,655	215,973
Total Fish, Meat, Eggs	1,521,839	664,271
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Macaroni	137,760	19,279
Macaroni, medium shell	139,740	19,720
Processed wheat (Bulgur)	240,434	21,478
Salt	272,916	10,048
Spaghetti	139,720	19,107
Sugar (brown)	626,876	40,944
Total Miscellaneous	1,557,446	130,576
GRAND TOTAL	14,331,000	2,426,182

Table 2. Average Prices Paid by Central Office for Selected Foods
Used in School Lunch Program during School Year 1955-56
Compared with Average for School Years 1951-55

Commodity	Average 1951-55	Fiscal Year 1955-56	Percent 1956 is of Average 1951-1955
Beans Soy, Dried	.07504	.0688	91.7
Beans, stringless	.10779	.1124	104.3
Carrots, Diced	.09050	.1039	114.8
Codfish, canned	.31412 a/	.3372	107.3
Corn, whole kernel	.12337	.1391	112.8
Dehydrated skimmed milk	-- b/	.2267	--
Eggs, whole dehydrated	1.3422 c/	1.3875	103.4
Grapefruit Sections (P.R.)	.13188 d/	.1283	97.3
Luncheon Meat (Pork)	.39729	.35691	89.8
Macaroni	.14043	.1399	99.6
Macaroni, medium shell	.16189 d/	.1411	87.2
Oleomargarine	.19599 e/	.1970	100.5
Peas, P.R. Pigeon (Gr. Cnd.)	.15333 a/	.1571	102.5
Peas, P.R. Pigeon (Dry Cnd.)	.11928 a/	.1190	99.8
Pineapple, crushed	.15721	.1501	95.5
Pineapple, sliced	-- b/	.1630	--
Potatoes, P.R., Sweet	.10325 c/	.1320	127.8
Processed Wheat (Bulgur)	.10024 c/	.0914	91.2
Prunes, dehydrated	.21350	.2602	121.9
Sardines	.18543	.1547	83.4
Sausage, Vienna style	.43466	.3683	84.7
Salt, Table	.03478	.0368	105.8
Spaghetti	.13754	.1367	99.4
Spinach	.08730	.0913	104.6
Sugar (brown)	.06422	.0653	101.7
Tomatoes, canned	.10288	.1206	117.2
Tomato Puree	.10828	.1307	120.7

a/ Only 1954-55 data available.

b/ No purchases reported from 1951-55.

c/ Only 1953-55 data available.

d/ No data for 1951-52.

e/ No data for 1954-55.

